



LOLO L. M. MOLIGA
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
American Samoa

LEMANU P. MAUGA
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

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Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14636
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Via e-mail to Council.Appointments@noaa.gov and via Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested

Attention: William Chappell

Dear Mr. Chappell:

It is with great pleasure that I submit qualified nominees for American Samoa's obligatory seat and at-large seats for the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. These individuals are listed in order of priority, and their general background and experience are as follows:


1. Rasela Feliciano: Ms. Feliciano and her husband are owners of three long-line fishing vessels fishing out of the Port of Pago Pago. She has been engaged full-time in the business for the last eight years and is President of the Tautai o Samoa Fishing Association, and a member of the American Samoa Fishermen's Cooperative. Individually and on behalf of the Association she is deeply concerned about the sustainability of the resource.
2. Rodney Reid: Mr. Reid has been a recreational fisherman his entire life. He comes from a family of sport fishing boat owners and as a youth attended several Hawaii International Billfish Tournaments with his father (a tournament winner in the early 1990's). Mr. Reid is a regular participant in the annual game fishing tournaments held in Apia, Samoa, where his boat won last year's tournament, and in Pago Pago. Mr. Reid is a member of the Pago Pago Game Fishing Association.
3. Christinna Lutu-Sanchez. Ms. Lutu-Sanchez grew up as a child cleaning fish, selling fish and eventually managing her father's growing fleet of alia (double hull) fishing boats. Currently, Lutu-Sanchez and her husband own and operate a fleet of 6 long-line fishing vessels out of the Port of Pago Pago. She previously worked for the Caribbean Fishing Company, Inc., a subsidiary of Starkist Seafoods and is an officer of Tautai o Samoa Fishing Association and an active member of the American Samoa Chamber of Commerce.

4. Kitara Vai'au. After retiring from the US Military, Mr. Vai'au has been an Alia (double hull) fisher for over 25 years. Like many Samoans, he has a strong, personal connection with the ocean and is passionate about its ties to our health, economy and the wellbeing of future generations. Mr. Vai'au is also a scuba diver instructor and a member of the American Samoa Fishing Association

The foregoing list of nominees was compiled by my office after consultation with Dr. Ruth Matagi-Tofiga, Director of the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources. Dr. Matagi-Tofiga worked with Governor's Legal Counsel Steve Watson to identify nominees in compliance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act. In doing so they consulted with individual members of the Tautai o Samoa Fishing Association and the Pago Pago Game Fishing Association.

I trust that from the foregoing nominees you will find persons qualified to fill the existing and pending vacancies on the WPFMC. Each nominee is committed to the responsible management of our precious resources and has expressed a strong desire to serve on the council. I look forward to the announcement from the Secretary.

Sincerely,



LEMANU P. MAUGA
Acting Governor